

# March 2019 USAO OR Indian Country Newsletter

03/15/2019



## Greeting from U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams

Welcome to the second edition of the District of Oregon Indian Country Email Newsletter. In this edition, in recognition of Women's History Month, we aim to highlight Native women and elevate their voices. We will also review our recent Indian Country (IC) prosecutions; provide a summary of upcoming trainings, events, grant opportunities, and resources; and share with you what we're watching and reading.

The nine federally recognized tribal nations in the District of Oregon have a long history of electing tribal chairpersons and representatives with strong leadership skills and dedication to protecting tribal rights. It is important to recognize these strong leaders have historically and presently include several Native women. Present Native women tribal chairs include: Cheryle Kennedy, Chair of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Delores Pigsley, Chair of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; and Brenda Meade, Chair of the Coquille Indian Tribe. We honor and respect their contributions to the tribes and to Oregon.

In September 2018, Don Lovell was sentenced to 64 months in federal prison and three years' supervised release in U.S. District Court in Portland after a contested sentencing hearing. He had previously pleaded guilty to assault resulting in substantial bodily injury and assault by strangling. As we noted in our last newsletter, the crime victim appeared under subpoena and testified under oath at the contested hearing. Under the Crime Victims' Rights Act, the federal law granting victims rights to participate and give input in the federal criminal justice process under 18 U.S.C. § 3771, victims have the right to be reasonably heard at the sentencing proceeding. Unfortunately, although she was present and prepared, she was not permitted to read her victim impact statement by the court. With her permission, we are publishing her impact statement in our newsletter: to elevate her voice, validate that her words have value, and ensure her experiences are not invisible.

The U.S. Attorney's Office stands against the invisibility and erasure of Native women. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or MMIW, is an abbreviation for a movement as well as a population of crime victims. We know of three databases that track these women and cases: [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\)](#), [Sovereign Bodies Institute's MMIW Database](#), and [No](#)

[More Silence from It Starts With Us](#). However, these crime victims become invisible in reporting and data collection because of jurisdictional challenges; communication deficits across local, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies; racial misclassification in reporting; and a lack of prioritization of these cases, among many other challenges. The statistics for trafficked, missing, and murdered indigenous women is disproportionate given the overall population.

Please join with me in raising awareness for this important issue, supporting cooperative law enforcement efforts, and strengthening accurate and comprehensive reporting, identifying, and investigating of missing Native women. We recognize there are cases in our jurisdiction. [We invite you to contact anyone on the USAO IC team directly regarding any cases, questions, information, or concerns](#). We are ready to collaborate. Native women are important and have value. We support competent, culturally-informed law enforcement that communicates and collaborates. And we have a trust responsibility to provide and promote health and safety for Native women.

Sincerely,

Billy J. Williams  
U.S. Attorney

---

## **Victim Impact Statement from September 20, 2018, US v. Don Lovell Sentencing Hearing**

Today I woke up sick vomiting from nervousness about today's hearing and seeing the defendant for the first time in a long time. I am nervous about going into the hearing. My stomach is knotted. Every time I think about him, I start shaking. I was going over with my friend last night about the whole thing, and she was talking to me reflecting back on my relationship with him. She had tried to get me away from him. She had said that he was going to kill me. It got me all wound up shaking again. Just the thought of seeing him brings those feelings back.

Part of the abuse was his control. He controlled me after he started taking my dog. He'd have me arrested whenever I disagreed with him, as soon as it wasn't his way. He'd say I would never see my dog, I would never see my horse again. I've had my dog since he was a puppy, and I was very stunned that he could do this because I had the dog chipped as a puppy through the Humane Society, and he was also listed as my service dog. Don had my dog licensed in the state of Washington, and at first I thought he was being nice. I didn't realize he was trying to transfer ownership to use that against me down the road whenever I was "out of line". It started out as something he did only occasionally, but as the control and the violence escalated, he would threaten to take my dog from me more regularly—every time I didn't do what he wanted me to do.

The violence at first was mainly verbal. He put me down, called me a whore, a bitch, and anything bad you can think of, he's called me that. I never realized how deep the mental abuse goes, until this relationship. I've been in a violent relationship before when I was married, but never experienced the mental abuse and manipulation to where I started believing his crazy-making. I started questioning myself. He'd say I was forgetting things, said I had said things I wasn't saying, but I have a good memory, and I knew I wasn't forgetting what was going on. I remember daily, weekly, monthly, the abuse that was going on, and that I was not forgetting or making it all up in my mind.

I read the letter from his ex-wife about how he had strangled her and cut her. She also thought she was being poisoned, and I wasn't sure that the same things weren't happening to me. Several times after I had left him, it would take over a week before I was back to normal. I would at first be super sick, and I wondered if the same thing was happening to me. My girlfriend brought this up to me again last night, because it wasn't just one time. I was hospitalized multiple times and I asked them to run a toxicology lab to see if he was poisoning me. One time, I felt so ill that I laid down in the park and I couldn't get up, and he said "Bitch get up and get in the car now" and I couldn't get up, so he took off, and then he came back and took me to the hospital for several days.

Another method of his abuse was abandoning me. I remember the first time things were really scary when we went to the drive-in movies, and he felt like I owed him for this date because we hadn't kissed or slept together ever before. He demanded these from me out on a back country road with no one around, and when I wouldn't do it, he grabbed me by my hair and shoved me out of the car on the outskirts of Walla Walla. I thought I was going to have to walk all the way back into town. Little did I know that this was the first of many times he would use the tactic—desertion—to control me. Sometimes he'd do it when I had no clothes on, wearing no shoes. Several times I had to cut my shirt off, cut it up, wrap my feet up with my torn shirt and bags from beer to be able to walk with all the rough terrain (goat heads, gravel). One time I walked a mile of that before I even got to any pavement.

When we first met, he didn't drink or smoke. But about two years into our relationship, he started both drinking regularly and smoking cigarettes and marijuana regularly. This is when the physical violence escalated in frequency and severity. It was happening before with his words and he would grab me by my hair, he would slam me head down. He wasn't hitting me with his fists then, he would just grab me, shove me, and then he would let me go.

After he started drinking and smoking, the violence was more regular. He would have me locked up in jail, and then as soon as I got home, he would immediately say it was "bed time", which meant I was to have sex with him. It didn't matter what time of day or what I felt about it. If I said no, then he would threaten to call the police because he wasn't getting his way, and the severe physical abuse would start. Most of the time just to avoid the whole ordeal, I would just lie there so that I could be as physically unharmed while he did what he wanted. It became insane.

He broke my nose more than once, he broke my arm, he broke my jaw—he put my jaw on the other side of my gosh darn face. I was hiding from him out in the country in a wheat field, and at the time, I couldn't see at night. I have glasses now, but didn't then. He came running out of the Toyota and grabbed me in the wheat field and slammed me down and knocked my jaw right off—I was surprised and didn't see him coming. After he broke my jaw, I told him something was broken in my face, and I started walking and he told me to get in the rig, and he drove me to the outskirts of Walla Walla and left me out in the country. I walked to a friend's house and spent the night there. I called my brother the next day and he came and picked me up and he took me to Madras Hospital, and they ambulated me to Bend for surgery. Now I have a metal plate in my face that holds my jaw to my face. I got back from the surgery and I didn't have any other ride. I feel stupid now about it. He came and picked me up, and it wasn't two days, it might have even been that first night, that I ended up back with him, and he slammed me again. I thought he might have broken my jaw yet again.

He kept me away from all my family and any friends that I had. This was his way of controlling me by isolating me. When I was using, he would control that connection, so he could dictate when and what I could use. I now know this was another tactic of keeping my family away and keeping me in the relationship—by keeping me addicted, he could use the criminal justice system to his benefit, lording the mention of a police call over me to make me do what he wanted. I would get out of

custody, he would have drugs already ready for me, one use, and then I couldn't give a clean UA, he would demand sex from me, and I couldn't say no because he would drag me in to give my dirty UA. He would also call my family and tell them I was using again and I was prostituting so they wouldn't want to be around me.

There is just so much I could tell you about the darkness of this relationship. I think that he did this before. He affected my medical treatment, my income, my family, my sense of value of myself, my animals. He controlled pretty much everything about my life. He knew exactly what he was doing from the very beginning. Judge, I am confident that you are going to do the right thing with today's sentencing to keep me safe and the next person he is with in a relationship safe. Thank you for listening to me today.

---

## In The News

### Recent Prosecution Highlights from the USAO District of Oregon

**US v. Victor Smith-** AUSA Ben Tolkoff prosecuted this Warm Springs case where defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of Assault on Certain Officers or Employees and one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm in a global resolution with a Wasco County burglary case. Defendant was sentenced on January 14, 2019, to 144 months prison followed by 3 years of supervised release, where he must undergo treatment for substance and alcohol abuse and pay restitution to his victims. The Wasco County crime victims submitted a restitution request at the time of sentencing, which was ordered by the court in the amount of \$8305.00. USAO Press release: [ICYMI: Shutdown Updates from Federal Court in Oregon](#).

**US v. Shane Britton-** AUSAs Jennifer Martin and Natalie Wight prosecuted this Umatilla case where defendant was convicted at trial by jury on October 17, 2018, of Abusive Sexual Contact. Defendant was sentenced on January 23, 2019, to five years' probation, including orders to undergo sex offender, substance abuse, and mental health treatment; register as a sex offender; not to have any contact with minors; exclusion from all Indian Reservations; and pay restitution of \$1,803.99 to the crime victim. The crime victim and family members gave written and verbal victim impact statements at the time of sentencing. USAO Press release: [ICYMI: Shutdown Updates from Federal Court in Oregon](#).

**US v. Joe Willis-William Frank-** AUSA Natalie Wight prosecuted this case out of Warm Springs where defendant pleaded guilty to Assault Resulting in Substantial Bodily Injury. Defendant was sentenced on December 11, 2018, to three years of supervised release, where he must engage in substance abuse and mental health treatment, cannot have any contact with the victim, and must pay \$197.01 in restitution to the victim. The crime victim was consulted regarding the plea offer and gave input for the sentence.

**US v. Jay Blackwolf-** AUSA Ravi Sinha prosecuted this case out of Warm Springs where defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of Assault. Defendant was sentenced on December 19, 2018, to 5 years of supervised release, including treatment for substance abuse, sex offenders, and mental health, and was ordered not to have any contact with minors or the crime victims. The crime victims were consulted regarding the plea offer. One of the crime victims and family attended the sentencing and gave verbal victim impact statements on the record.

**US v. Harold Blackwolf-** AUSA Ben Tolkoff prosecuted this case out of Warm Springs where defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of Involuntary Manslaughter on February 27, 2019. In a separate case, he pleaded guilty to one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Sentencing for both cases has been scheduled for June 11, 2019. Several co-victims were present for the Change of Plea hearing. USAO Press release: [Warm Springs Man Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and Illegal Firearm Possession](#).

**US v. William Clements, Sr.-** AUSAs Byron Chatfield and John Brassell prosecuted this case out of Warm Springs where defendant pleaded guilty to the crime of Assault on October 2, 2018. He was sentenced for this crime and also sanctioned for a supervised release violation from a 2014 domestic violence case on March 11, 2019. The judge sentenced him to a total of 12 months and 1 day in prison, followed by 21 months of supervised release. During his supervised release period, he must engage in in-patient substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and may not have any contact with the minor crime victim. The victim representative from the 2014 case was present at the hearing and gave an impact statement. The minor crime victim from the 2018 case was also present and gave sentencing recommendations through the AUSA.

To sign up for future USAO OR press releases, [click here](#).

### **News Outside Oregon**

[U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report: Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans](#)

[Department of Justice, Bureau of Indian Affairs Repatriate Items of Cultural Patrimony to Acoma Pueblo](#)

[Department of Justice Releases Annual Report to Congress on Indian Country Investigations and Prosecutions](#)

[Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein Delivers Remarks at the Department of Justice American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month Observance Program](#)

[StrongHearts Native Helpline Expands Operating Hours](#) (now 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST, 7 days a week)

---

## **Upcoming Training and Events**

### **Positive Indian Parenting**

March 12, 2019 and 8 subsequent Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 pm in Portland, OR (NAYA Family Center)

PIP is an eight-week course focusing on traditional, culturally specific parenting practices and values. We will explore attitudes in a variety of traditional child-rearing ways and apply them to values and challenges of modern parenting skills. Dinners and childcare are provided.

To participate, RSVP to [Shiloh George](#).

Sponsored by NAYA.

#### [Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\) Clinical Webinars](#)

March 18, 21, and 26, 2019

In honor of National Native HIV Awareness Day (NNHAD) on March 20, this series of HIV Prevention free webinars is focused on PrEP.

Sponsored by the National IHS HIV Program.

#### [Burns Paiute Tribal Court Spokesperson Training](#)

March 20, 2019 from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-2:00pm in Burns Paiute, OR (at Tribal Court)

This free training is intended for any individual who drafts or implements policy and laws, including law enforcement leaders, court personnel, victim advocates, and tribal court spokespersons.

Contact [NAPOLS](#) to register or receive email updates.

#### [Burns Paiute Federal Firearm Laws and Orders of Protection](#)

March 20, 2019 from 2:00-3:15pm in Burns Paiute, OR (at Tribal Court)

This free training is intended for any individual who desires to be a resource to the Tribal Court as a spokesperson. Trained spokespersons assist survivors with protection orders and other Tribal Court proceedings. This training will go over basic courtroom procedures, rules of evidence and discuss protection orders.

Contact [NAPOLS](#) to register or receive email updates.

#### [The 14th Circle of Harmony HIV/AIDS Wellness Conference: Bridging Generations: Thinking Ahead](#)

While Always Being Informed by the Past

March 26-28 in Albuquerque, NM

Sponsored by the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board

#### [Drugs and the Forensic Patient](#)

March 28, 2019 from 1:00pm - 2:30pm EST

This free webinar is intended for medical professionals serving American Indian/Alaska Native patients.

Sponsored by Tribal Forensic Healthcare.

#### [Are Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessments Racially Biased?](#)

Thursday, March 28, 2019 from 2:00-3:30pm CT

This free webinar is intended for advocates, prosecutors, probation and pretrial officers, and judges.

Sponsored by the Battered Women's Justice Project and presented by Northern Arizona University Family Violence Institute faculty.

#### [Responding to Child Sex Trafficking in Indian Country](#)

April 8-9, 2019 in Hankinson, ND

This free training is intended for LE, prosecutors, and advocates.

Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College.

#### [Credibility as a Central Tenet to Sustainable Advocacy](#)

April 10, 2019 from 10:00am-12:00pm in Portland, OR

The positive impact of victim advocacy – both on survivors and on case outcomes – is established and yet, for many in our field, the value of the work that advocates do does not always match the professional credibility they are afforded by others. In this session, we will explore credibility as one of the basic tenants in the Sustainable Advocacy Model. This training is intended for victim assistance professionals.

Sponsored by Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division of OR DOJ.



Burns Paiute Human Trafficking, Teen Dating Violence, SA and DV

April 12, 2019 from 1:00-4:00pm in Burns Paiute, OR

This free training is intended for victim advocates, social services personnel, prevention personnel, medical and mental health providers, law enforcement, and court personnel.

Contact [NAPOLS](#) to register or receive email updates.

[Tribal, State and Federal Summit: Rising to the Challenge: Addressing Impacts to Mind, Body and Soul](#)

April 17-18, 2019 in Pendleton, OR

The training is intended for those in the legal (prosecution, probation and parole, judges, and advocates), law enforcement (state, federal and tribal), and medical and behavioral health fields.

Sponsored by The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

[Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference: Strengthening Our Response](#)

April 19, 2019 in Portland, OR (PCC Cascade Campus, Moriarty Auditorium)

This free conference is intended for service providers who directly engage with sexual violence survivors.

Keynote speaker is Representative Tawna Sanchez, Director of Family Services at Native American Youth and Family Center NAYA.

Sponsored by the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee of the Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC) and the Multnomah County Department of County Human Services (DCHS) Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO).

[International Conference on Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Increasing Access](#)

April 22-25, 2019 in San Diego, CA

Sponsored by End Violence Against Women International.

[Intimate Partner Risk Assessment and the Family Court](#)

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 3:00-4:30pm CT

This free webinar is intended for advocates, family law attorneys, court administrators, prosecutors, probation and pretrial officers, and judges.

Sponsored by the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative and presented by Northern Arizona University Family Violence Institute faculty.

[Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country \(CJIC\)](#)

April 24-26, 2019 in Union Gap, WA

This certification training program is mandatory for departments with a BIA deputation agreement and to certify law enforcement officers to receive a Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For more information or to register, contact [Sasha Ward](#) at 575-746-5641.

Sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office, DOJ-National Indian Country Training Initiative, and United States Indian Police Academy.

[Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance: Community Assessment Institute](#)

April 30 - May 3, 2019 in Saint Paul, MN

If your community could benefit from learning how complex institutions either meet the needs of, or produce negative outcomes for, survivors of gender-based violence, this institute is for you.

This free training is sponsored by Mending the Sacred Hoop.

[Responding to Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in Tribal Communities Specialized Training](#)

May 30-31, 2019 in Shiprock, NM

This free training is intended for LE, prosecutors, advocates, educators, and court personnel. Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College.

[Tribal Action Plan Development Workshop: A Tribal Law and Order Act Training Initiative](#)

May 29,31, 2019 in Columbia, SC

This free training supports the principle of tribal self-determination in the fight against alcohol and substance misuse. This workshop is designed to provide tribes with the tools and guidance to assist in developing a TAP.

Sponsored by DOJ.

[NW Native Adolescent Health Alliance Meeting](#)

May 2019, date and location TBD

This is an open workgroup that meets quarterly to discuss cross-cutting planning and prevention strategies targeting AI/AN teens and young adults, addressing tobacco, substance abuse, STD/HIV, teen pregnancy, and suicide topics.

Contact [Celena McCray](#) (503-416-3270) with questions.

Sponsored by Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Rogue Valley Veterans Powwow

June 1-2, 2019 in White City, OR

For more information, contact Faith Hazen at 541-601-3627.

[Moving from Awareness to Comprehensive Prevention: Statewide Training](#)

June 17-19, 2019 in John Day, OR

Sponsored by the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

[Tradition Keepers Folklife Festival](#)

June 29, 2019, from 10am-5pm in Ontario, OR

This free festival is sponsored by The Four Rivers Cultural Center.

[2019 FBI Portland Teen Academy](#)

July 8-12, 2019 in Salem, OR at DPSST

This free training is intended for rising high school juniors and seniors to gain a greater understanding of how law enforcement can be an asset to their community. Students will learn the value of cultural awareness, celebrate diversity of varying backgrounds, and gain skills to resolve conflict in their communities. The application deadline is May 15, 2019, at 4pm.

Sponsored by the FBI.

29th Annual Tamkaliks Celebration & Friendship Potluck

July 19 - July 21, 2019 in Wallowa, OR

For more information, contact [Angela Bombaci](#) at 541-886-3101.

[Building Girls' Protective Assets in Indian County: Intentional Girl-Centered Program Design](#)

Previously recorded webinar

Sponsored by National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.



---

## Funding Opportunities

[Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\) Grants to Native American Tribes \(including Alaska Native Villages\) and tribal organizations](#) are formula grants funded through a 10% set aside in the FVPSA appropriation. The purpose of these grants is to assist Tribes in efforts to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of, family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and to provide immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents. Funding is available to all Native American Tribes and tribal organizations that meet the definition of “Indian Tribe” or “tribal organization” at 25 U.S.C. 450b and are able to demonstrate their capacity to carry out domestic violence prevention and services programs. Applications are due March 15, 2019.

### [Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program](#)

The purpose of this program is to support states and tribes with implementing youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance use programs, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth-serving organizations. It is expected that this program will: (1) increase the number of youth-serving organizations who are able to identify and work with youth at risk of suicide; (2) increase the capacity of clinical service providers to assess, manage, and treat youth at risk of suicide; and (3) improve the continuity of care and follow-up of youth identified to be at risk for suicide, including those who have been discharged from emergency department and inpatient psychiatric units. Applications are due March 18, 2019.

### [SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects grant](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for this TCE – Special Projects grant. The purpose of this program is to develop and implement targeted strategies for substance use disorder treatment provision to address a specific population or area of focus identified by the community. The purpose of the TCE program is to address an unmet need or underserved population; this program aims to enable a community to identify the specific need or population it wishes to address through the provision of evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and/or recovery support services. Up to 22 grant awards are proposed at up to \$375,000 per year for three years. Applications are due March 25, 2019.

### [SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Substance Abuse in Youth Living in Tribal Communities](#)

The program is intended to prevent underage drinking. At their discretion, grantees may also use funds to target up to two additional, data-driven substance abuse prevention priorities, such as the use of marijuana, cocaine, opioids, or methamphetamine, etc. Eligibility is limited to federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian Organizations, or consortia of Tribes or Tribal organizations and domestic public or private non-profit entities. Recipients who have received funding under SP-16-003 and SP-18-008 are not eligible to apply for funding under this FOA. Applications are due March 29, 2019.

### [Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking FY 2018 Competitive Grant Solicitation](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), is seeking applications for funding to support direct services to minor victims of all forms of human trafficking throughout the United States. This program furthers the Department’s mission by enhancing the field’s response to victims of human trafficking. Organizations funded under this program will provide (directly and through partnerships) a comprehensive array of services that minor victims of human trafficking often require to address their needs for safety, security, and

healing. All previously held OVC-hosted webinars covering the details and application requirements, were video recorded and will be posted [online](#). Applications are due April 4, 2019.

#### [OVW's Research and Evaluation Initiative](#)

The Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is designed to research and evaluate approaches to combatting domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. It supports researcher-practitioner partnerships and a broad range of research and evaluation methods, including qualitative, mixed-method, and quasi-experimental, and experimental designs. Application deadline has been extended to April 11, 2019.

#### [OVW's Fiscal Year 2019 Training and Technical Assistance Initiative](#)

Funds are now available to provide direct technical assistance to existing and potential grantees and sub-grantees to enhance their efforts to successfully implement projects supported by OVW grant funds. OVW's TA Initiative is designed to strengthen and build the capacity of civil and criminal justice system professionals and victim service providers across the nation to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and foster partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address these crimes. Applications are due April 11, 2019.

#### [OVW Fiscal Year 2019 Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Solicitation](#)

This program is authorized by the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, 25 U.S.C. § 1304(f). Through this grant program, Indian tribes receive support and technical assistance for planning and implementing changes in their criminal justice systems necessary to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) and funds to exercise the jurisdiction. The program encourages collaborations among tribal leadership, courts, prosecutors, attorneys, defenders, law enforcement, probation, victim services providers, and other partners to ensure that victims find safety and justice and that non-Indians who commit crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, and violations of protection orders in the Indian Country of the tribe are held accountable. Applications are due April 11, 2019.

#### [Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence](#)

The goals of the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Violence Against Women (VAW) program of research are to improve knowledge and understanding of intimate partner and dating violence, stalking, and sexual violence through science to best prevent and respond to these crimes. NIJ strives to support objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women, promote justice for victims of crime, and enhance criminal justice responses to such crimes. This call for proposals is tied to the U.S. Department of Justice priorities related to reducing violent crime, responding to victimization, protecting police officers, and enhancing investigations and prosecution. This year, NIJ is particularly interested in research responding to the following priority areas: (1) Evaluation research on VAW programs, (2) VAW research, and (3) Violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls research. NIJ anticipates that \$3.5 million may become available for multiple awards made through this solicitation. Applications are due April 15, 2019.

#### [Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program FY 2019 Competitive Grant Announcement](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications to establish or enhance drug court services, to include coordination, management of drug court participants, and recovery support services. This program furthers the Department's mission by providing resources to state, local, and tribal governments to

enhance drug court programs and systems for nonviolent offenders with addictions, including opioid abuse and overdose. Applications are due April 16, 2019.

#### [OVW Fiscal Year 2019 Sexual Assault Services Formula Program](#)

Funds are now available for states and territories to assist them in supporting rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide direct intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault, without regard to age. Applications are due April 24, 2019.

---

## Jobs

The **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is seeking subject matter experts in the victim services field to review and assess fiscal year 2019 grant applications. Reviewers should have relevant experience in the field of victim assistance and expertise at the local, state, federal, or tribal levels. Peer review is a critical component of the application review process that allows experts in the field to assess current trends and promising approaches needed to best serve victims. You are encouraged to apply or to pass along this information to other subject matter experts in your organization or in your community who might be interested. Participants receive \$125 for each application reviewed, including participation in both the orientation call and consensus call. If you are interested, please [email](#) an up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae, including your valid email address, by March 15, 2019. Include "OVC Peer Review" in the subject line. More information is available [here](#).

The **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** is seeking nominations for members of the **Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women** (Task Force). OVW is particularly interested in individuals with law enforcement and prosecutorial experience. By statute, Task Force members must be representatives of one of the following entities: tribal governments; national tribal domestic violence and sexual assault non-profit organizations; or national tribal organizations. Task Force candidates should be nominated by the authorized representative of the listed governments or organizations (i.e., tribal council or executive director). For each nominee, the nominating entity must submit a cover letter recommending the individual and explaining the individual's qualifications to serve on the Task Force, as well as a copy of the individual's resume or curriculum vitae. The cover letter and supporting documentation should be submitted by e-mail to [OVW.taskforce@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.taskforce@usdoj.gov) no later than April 30, 2019. Please contact Sherriann C. Moore, Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs at (202) 616-0039, if you have questions regarding the nomination process.

The **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center** is hiring a [Native Affairs Senior Advisor](#) for the NIWRC & The StrongHearts Native Helpline in Washington, D.C. The position is open until filled.

**NIWRC is hiring a [Program Assistant](#)**, responsible for providing administrative support to the various program teams of the NIWRC, namely the Policy & Research Division and the Technical Assistance & Training Division. The position is located in Lame Deer, MT or an off-site location. The position is open until filled.

---

## What We're Watching and Reading

**February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness month.** The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Response Circles, We R Native, Stronghearts and Skybear Media partnered to produce a PSA on healthy relationships. Please check it out [here](#).

**This *Teen Vogue* article** [Invisibility is the modern form of racism against Native Americans](#) is an excellent examination of Native erasure and invisibility in present day society.

**The IHS National Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) program and the IHS Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention** announced the release of the [Indian Health Surveillance Report—Sexually Transmitted Diseases 2015](#). The report presents statistics and trends for STDs among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in the United States and represents a unique collaboration and partnership between IHS and CDC. The report highlights disparities among AI/ANs with national data indicating that in 2015 AI/ANs had the second highest rates for chlamydia and gonorrhea and the fourth highest rates for syphilis among all racial and ethnic groups. Find “Portland” data (which includes most of the District of Oregon) on pages 57-59.

**DOJ’s public *Journal of Federal Law and Practice* highlighted Elder Justice in its December bulletin.** Leslie Hagen, the National Indian Country Training Coordinator for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, wrote the article [Responding to Elder Abuse and Neglect in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#), found on pages 275-301.

**Wilson Wewa, tribal elder, spiritual leader, and oral historian for the Warm Springs Paiute, shared an excerpt** [The Creation Story and the Malheur Cave](#) on the Oregon Natural Desert Association’s blog. The excerpt is from his book, [Legends of the Northern Paiute](#).

**The Nonprofit Institute at Portland State University recently interviewed Terry Cross**, the Founder and Senior Advisor of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), headquartered in Portland, OR. Read the [full interview here](#).

**In December 2018, the New York *Times* published ‘I Feel Invisible’: Native Students Languish in Public Schools**, a sobering look on how America’s public education system is failing Native youth.

**National Geographic published the article** [Native Americans are recasting views of indigenous life](#), pushing to “counter the racist fixations that have plagued stories of Indian culture.”

**The Wall Street Journal and PBS’s *Frontline* collaborated on the story** [A Pedophile Doctor Drew Suspicion for 21 Years. No One Stopped Him: The federal government’s Indian Health Service failed to protect Native American boys from Pat Weber’s sexual abuse, despite repeated warning signs](#). The film *Predator on the Reservation* is available through the above link and premiered on February 12, 2019, on PBS. As a result of these prosecutions and this reporting, each local IHS facility is required to establish protocols to protect children from sexual abuse by health care providers.

**The *Billings Gazette* continues to highlight the MMIW epidemic** with their recent report [When government fails, indigenous women take their search for missing loved ones online](#).

---

## Resources

March 20, 2019 is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a nationwide effort to encourage Native people to learn more about HIV/AIDS, to work toward testing options and HIV counseling in Native communities, and to help decrease the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Visit [the official website](#) to learn more and access resources, including a great [resource locator](#) to get tested and find services.

Virginia Tech University is sponsoring a research study on First Nations/American Indian/Alaska Native mothers whose child/children were placed in foster care and/or for adoption. The aim of the study is to learn about the experiences of grief, loss, and mental health of First Nations/American Indian/Alaska Native mothers who lost a child to foster care or adoption. To refer someone to this study or to participate, contact [Ashley Landers](#) or call 703-538-3796.

[ourCircle Project](#) through Johns Hopkins University is sponsoring a research study that is working to understand health and safety in Native women's relationships and has developed online modules that are culturally specific to Indigenous women. The goal is to see if women who receive these modules have better outcomes than those that are not culturally adapted – and to have this resource be widely available for use online. To refer someone to this paying study or to participate, please [email](#).

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\) program](#), is committed to increasing data and case information to address the number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native men and women. In order to further this important initiative, they have added new data fields to NamUs. These fields have been added to NamUs to better gather relevant information related to the investigation of a missing and/or unidentified indigenous person case, in the hope of resolving more cases, and to foster better communication across tribal, local, state, and federal jurisdictions.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please call NamUs toll-free at 1-855-626-7600.

NativeLove and NIWRC's [Online Toolkit for Youth](#) offers support, toolkits and resources for youth on a broad spectrum of wellness. They also have an [Online Toolkit for Educators, Coaches, and Mentors](#) to help encourage youth to rethink what Native Love means to them, and empower them to define healthy relationships for themselves, with the aim of promoting non-violent, respectful, safe relationships among Native youth, their families, communities, cultures, and Nations.

[myPlan Intimate Partner Violence Survivor Tool](#) is a tool for survivors of intimate partner violence and others with concerns about healthy relationships that can be used to help them identify, navigate, and make decisions about safety. The tool is discreet and confidential; it is a smartphone app or web-based tool. It is not meant to replace expert advice but encourages those who may never seek services to explore and think about their options.

[Tribal Resource Tool](#) is a searchable directory and web-based resource mapping tool that provides a listing of all services available for AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse and helps identify gaps in services so those can be addressed. Remember to [log your organization's information](#) to be included in the tool.

NIWRC's toolkit for action [Tribal Community Response When a Woman Is Missing](#) reviews MMIW as part of the spectrum of domestic and sexual violence perpetrated against Native women and highlights the need to take immediate action.

[It Happened to Alexa](#) is a program seeking to empower survivors of sexual violence by reducing the barriers to participate in the prosecution of their perpetrators, including providing financial, emotional, and advocacy assistance for out-of-town trials.

The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit released a new guide on [Accounting for Abuse in Civil Protection Orders](#), designed to help survivors, advocates, attorneys, and judges consider the range of behaviors the respondent has engaged in – from physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and spiritual abuse to coercive control.

[Oregon Crime Victim Law Center's](#) senior staff attorney [Melanie Kebler](#) was recently sworn in to the Warm Springs Tribal Court and can provide no-cost representation to crime victims in contested protective orders, victim rights violations, legal privacy issues, and more.

---

## Your U.S. Attorney's Office Indian Country Team

Organized and Violent Crime Chief [Craig Gabriel](#)  
Organized and Violent Crime Deputy Chief [Ravi Sinha](#)  
AUSA Tribal Liaison [Tim Simmons](#)  
AUSA [Jennifer Martin](#) (focusing on CTUIR and Chemawa Indian School)  
AUSA [Paul Maloney](#) (focusing on Warm Springs and Burns Paiute)  
Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist [Johanna Costa](#)  
Public Affairs Officer [Kevin Sonoff](#)

---

## A Note About Our Language

"Indian Country" is the legal term used to describe reservations and other lands set aside for Indian use, such as Indian allotments and lands held in trust for Indians or Indian tribes, and is defined under 18 U.S.C. § 1151. We use the term Indian Country versus the term Native American or some other term because it describes the statutory jurisdiction of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

---

## Disclaimers

The links provided in this newsletter are for information only. Not all content reflects the views of the U.S. Attorney's Office or Department of Justice. Events and trainings are not vetted or otherwise endorsed by the USAO or DOJ. Please contact [usaor.icnews@usdoj.gov](mailto:usaor.icnews@usdoj.gov) to submit suggested trainings for our next newsletter.

You have received this e-mail of the U.S. Attorney's Office District of Oregon's Indian Country Newsletter because you are an identified partner of the U.S. Attorney's Office and we have identified you as someone who may be interested in joining in on this communication. You may opt



out of receiving the quarterly newsletter in the future by clicking the *Manage your Subscriptions* link below.

Please do not reply to this email. This mailbox is for outbound messages only. So that we may best serve you, please visit our website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-or>.

---

Header photo of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation courtesy of Tosha Reetz, former Special Victims Detective with CTUIR PD.

---